

often say he has a potential for bipartisan collaboration. I stand here saying I appreciate JOHN WARNER. When I got the news he was not going to seek reelection, I thought to myself this institution will be losing a great man. He is a wonderful person.

I hope all of us, when we finish these next 15 months or so working with JOHN, thank JOHN for what he is and also use JOHN as a kind of point of departure, saying: "I wish to be more like JOHN WARNER. I wish to do what is right; I wish to be courageous; I wish to be civil; and I wish to do what people of our States ask us to do." I salute JOHN WARNER.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

#### LABOR DAY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, yesterday Americans of all ages, from all segments of society, from hundreds of occupations and professions, celebrated something uniquely American: Labor Day.

Our workers, tens of millions of hourly wage earners and hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs, farmers and managers, tradesmen and saleswomen, our workers have built a middle class larger, broader, and more prosperous than any in world history.

They all have one thing in common: They are increasingly more productive, creating greater wealth and larger profits than ever for their employers. Yesterday, the Columbus Dispatch reported that according to the International Labor Organization, American workers are the most productive in the world.

The average U.S. worker produces more than \$63,885 of wealth each year. But increasingly, American workers have not shared in the wealth they have created, in wages, in health benefits, in a meaningful pension, that highly productive workers in our country used to enjoy.

Ohio workers are fighting back to build a decent standard of living to provide opportunities for our children and to construct a more prosperous and egalitarian society.

But our Nation and my State have struggled; struggled in part because of the Federal Government's wrongheaded trade policy and tax policies, which all too often encourage investors to move jobs overseas, and in part because of a drifting State Government in Columbus which fell short in educating our young people and did little to erect a manufacturing policy to prepare for our future.

In the spirit of Labor Day, let me share the stories of a handful of hard-working often heroic Ohio workers who are making a difference. Dee Dee Tillman and Carlos Sanchez participated in the negotiations representing 1,200 janitors in Cincinnati, 1,200 men and women who are working hard, raising their children, contributing to their community, and earning not much more than the minimum wage.

Joined by their colleagues, they and their union reached an agreement with Cincinnati office building owners. Over the next 4 years, 1,200 janitors in Cincinnati will get a \$2.95-an-hour raise, health benefits and vacation pay for the first time and a small pension.

At the other end of the State, in Mentor, Roger Sustar speaks out every day for American manufacturing. He recognizes businesses similar to his, small manufacturing companies, are vital to the economic security and the national security for our country. On most Saturdays, he volunteers his time to train students in the basics of manufacturing.

In northwest Ohio, in the flatlands of Henry County, Mark Schwiebert is a highly productive farmer in an increasingly competitive environment. He is proud of his successful and tidy farm, to be sure, but he also takes seriously his role as a citizen. He is an advocate for family farmers and for fair trade, understanding the prosperity of our State depends on a vibrant rural Ohio, where young people want to stay and work in their community.

Sue Klein, another hero who cares so much about our State, works at a large daily newspaper. She too makes her employer a more profitable enterprise. She works hard. She gets rave reviews from her coworkers, is uncommonly devoted to her aging parents, and gives back to her community in a dozen ways.

On Labor Day, we salute American labor and Ohio labor. We celebrate our State's heroes: Dee Dee, Carlos, Mark, Roger, and Sue. We thank them and so many others.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SPECTER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### GREETINGS TO THE PRESIDING OFFICER

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, at the outset, permit me to greet the distinguished Presiding Officer, Senator CASEY, my colleague from Pennsylvania. It is a pleasure to come back after the August break and see Senator CASEY looking so well and fit and in the chair.

#### TRIBUTE TO KENT SHEARER

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I have sought recognition to eulogize a friend and a former member of the Senate family, Kent Shearer, who died on August 23.

Kent Shearer and I were boyhood friends from our early days in Russell, KS, when we were debaters at the high

school. Kent was a great intellect. At the time when his colleagues were playing marbles, Kent was studying and talking about the Peloponnesian wars. During our high school days, Kent and I were colleagues in our freshman year debating the subject on the negative: resolved that individual income should be limited to \$25,000 annually. Shows you how times have changed.

Kent and I were on two high school debating teams which won the State championship. In 1945, Russell was a small school with fewer than 400 students. We competed with schools our size, then moved the next year to the big-school category, where high schools had several thousand students across Kansas, finished in second place, and lost by a speaker's ballot. Then, in 1947, we were on the team that won the State AA championship with the big schools.

Kent was the outstanding debater in Russell High. He won the Kiwanis award, went on to the University of Kansas, where he was Phi Beta Kappa, was the winner of the Perdue National Invitational Debate Tournament, competed in the West Point National Tournament, served then in the Judge Advocate General's office, and settled in Salt Lake City, UT in 1958, until 1997, when Alice, his wife, passed away, and he then moved to Portland, OR.

A few years back, Kent came to join me, working on the Senate staff. He worked for 3 months. It was an honor and a pleasure to have my long-standing friend Kent Shearer work with me in the Senate. He brought a level of legal insights and erudition which was rare for a Senate staffer. But then Kent himself might have been a Senator had his career path taken one different shift. That was in 1994, in January, when the staff was being organized on the President's Commission to investigate the assassination of President Kennedy, commonly known as the Warren Commission. We had one spot left among the young lawyers on the staff. The Commission was recruiting lawyers from all over the country in order to avoid having the Washington establishment conduct the investigation out of concern that there might be some thought of a coverup if the same crowd in Washington did the investigation. There was concern about the integrity of Washington then as now. The staff was recruited from all over the country. We had lawyers from Des Moines and Denver and Cleveland, Philadelphia, New York, Los Angeles. I called up Kent and urged him to apply for the position. Unfortunately, he couldn't do so because of his own career plans at that time. I think had Kent accepted a position as assistant counsel to the Warren Commission and come to Washington, his career might have been parallel to mine.

Kent was active in Utah politics, was chairman of the State committee, was instrumental in the campaigns of Senator Garn and Senator HATCH and